

Park Board Workshop

Feb 13, 2013

Present: Tom Aguilar-Downing, Emily White, Anita Perkins, Laura Duffey, Marge Meconis, Mary Ann Newman

Called to order 8:00 pm

Discussion of recent Family Fun Night

Very successful. Estimated 50 people attended.

Thanks to the Fire Dept for use of kitchen. No gas stove however. Were able to use coffee urn to heat the water. Used warming house for refreshments. Newport Athletic Association did a nice job with door prizes. Kids were very excited about them. Pauline Schottmueller did a nice job getting games started. Tug of war on ice went well with lots of laughs. Next year place line so that one side does not have the advantage of traction on the snow bank.

We have a dozen bowling pins donated by Red Rock Bowl, that can be stored with Public Works for ice bowling next year.

A thank you letter to the Bulletin should be written thanking all the donors, along with individual Thank You notes.

Brian Schmidt of South Washington Cable Television did videos and interviews. He will make them available to the City for posting on the City's Park Board Web page. We should be able to pull an image off of it for inclusion in the City newsletter.

It was general concluded that we should do the event again next year. Date can be set annually as the first Saturday after the Super Bowl, making next on Feb 8, 2014.

We then went around the table to discuss Goals for the Park Board for 2013.

Emily White:

Will organize a Family Campout for June 22-23 at Loveland Park. The 2012 event was sparsely attended. With advance planning, a better publicity, we'll be looking for a better turn out this year.

Anita Perkins:

Will organize an Volunteer Appreciation Event for the Adopt-A-Park volunteers. We would like to send out an invitation and note of appreciation in April. April 21-27 is National Volunteer appreciation week, and April 22 is Earth Day. So that would be an ideal time. We would like to include a small token of appreciation, such as a \$5 gift card to the North Pole, or to Bartl's hardware.

The Event itself, will be a potluck on May 19 at Loveland Park.

Laura Duffey:

Will organize the Annual Buckthorn Eradication Day. Date: Saturday Oct 26, 2013. Mary Ann Newman volunteered to help organize.

Laura wondered if any activity is planned for Halloween. The Library held a party last year and will do so again this year. The Park Board can be supportive of that .

Marge Meconis:

The History Walk can be done as a Natural History Walk at Loveland Park. Schedule it for after school starts so that we can use the school distribution for promotion. Good date would be Sept. 28, 2013.

Marge had recently read an article in the Star Tribune about the city of Woodbury having purchased the Lone Lake Kennel properties, making a connection between La Lake facilities and Bailey Park. The article said that the city of Newport was on board with the project. Park Board is unaware of this, and we wondered if this was related to the BanCorp development. That seems to have stalled out. General feeling is that the Park Board should be kept abreast of any such developments.

Mary Ann Newman:

Adopt-A-Park, Planters on Hastings Road need to be rethought. Roses make it very prickly to work. Weeds have taken over. Lots of trash gets dumped in them and the rose thorns make cleaning very difficult. John Neska and Bailey Nursery should be engaged.

There is still outstanding a plan for the natural plantings at the Overlook park(s).

Pioneer Day booth.

Some discussion of the Island in the Mississippi River to someday become a Park.

Signage – Evaluate. Any plans for signage at the Frances & Henry & James pocket park.

Council Member Rahm has been pursuing solar panel s tied into lighting and electrical supply at the Phillips Pavilion. Park Board would like to be advised of the thinking on this project.

Tom Aguilar-Downing:

Since meeting time was running short, Tom briefly listed items that he would like to see goals developed around:

Basis in City Ordinances for the Park Board

Financial Reports at Park Board meetings

Update of Bailey School Forest Interpretive piece

Interpretive piece on website

GPS coordinates of sign posts

QRC of signposts

QRCs posted on Sign Posts

Receive the School District's School Forest Annual usage report
Glean highest usage by teacher. Recruit such teachers onto Governance Committee.
Meetings of Joint Governance Committee.

Workshop at Loveland Park. Facility and trail tour.

NAA support.

Feasibility study re: Skateboard facility

Program at Pedestrian Park. eg: Mu Daiko taiko drumming group or Battle of the Bands

2nd Annual Winter Family Fun Night. 1st Sat after Superbowl.

Adopt A Park volunteer Recognition - Litter sticks

Xmas Tree burn

Lighting of Bailey Pavilion

Finishing Loveland courts

Develop an Email / Blog process for the Board that conforms to Sunshine policy

Members of the Park Board that are also associated with the School District, indicated that it is very unlikely that any teachers would volunteer time for involvement with the School Forest Joint Governance Committee. If it is after school hours they need to be compensated, and there is no district money available for that. It was asked whether or not the city might have funds for such compensation.

It was pointed out the Committee does need to have some meetings per the School Forest designation by the DNR.

The Chair asked that members put together a one or two sentence description of the goals that they volunteered for.

The Chair will ask Renee for a schedule and article submission deadlines for the City Newsletters.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Aguilar-Downing

Chair